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February 28, 2003

Contact: Evelyn K. Stampley

**LSU Dow Chemical Endowed Chair and Mechanical Engineering Professor  
Appointed Regents' Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs  
Research & Development**

For Immediate Release

Baton Rouge – Michael M. Khonsari, the Dow Chemical Endowed Chair and professor of mechanical engineering at Louisiana State University and A&M College, has been named Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs at the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Khonsari will also serve as project director of the statewide Louisiana Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), a federal-state program whose objective is to strengthen targeted research and development that is relevant to the State and the diversification of its economy. LA EPSCoR is funded by the National Science Foundation and the Board of Regents Support Fund.

At LSU, Khonsari is responsible for the establishment of a state-of-the-art program for rotating machinery through collaborative research and development with industry as well as state and federal agencies.

Noting that Khonsari, who has been awarded over \$5.6 million in research grants, will be responsible for the Regents' science and engineering research and development efforts, E. Joseph Savoie, commissioner of higher education, said:

"We are most fortunate to have found such an outstanding researcher who also has a solid administrative background. Because of his outstanding research contributions and technical publications, he is world renowned, especially in the science of tribology, mechanical friction and

(More)

## **Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs**

### **ADD ONE**

wear of machine elements. His worldwide reputation in research has moved him into high positions of responsibility in professional societies, which have honored him with many professional awards.”

Prior to joining LSU in 1996, Khonsari served as a professor and chair of the mechanical engineering and energy processes department at Southern Illinois University. He previously served on the faculties of the University of Pittsburgh and Ohio State University and was the recipient of faculty research fellowships from the NASA Lewis Research Center, U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Air Force.

Khonsari is a fellow of both the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and the Society of Tribologist and Lubrication Engineers (STLE). He is the author of some 100 professional publications, a book and book chapters and the recipient of numerous awards. The latter include the American Society of Mechanical Engineers’ Burk Newkirk Award for “dedication in the field of tribology and outstanding research, encompassing many areas of tribology, but particularly in fluid-film bearings,” two ALCOA Foundations Awards, a Fulbright-Hayes award for his 1990 study of the “culture of manufacturing in Japan,” and an STLE Presidential Research Council Award.

In 1996, Khonsari served as a member of the U.S. Scientific Delegation to Nordic Countries. He received his Ph.D., master of science and bachelor of science degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

Khonsari was appointed to his new post during the February 27, 2003, Board of Regents meeting.